

FILED

April 21, 2003

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD
OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

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STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

IN THE MATTER OF THE SUSPENSION :
OR REVOCATION OF THE LICENSE
OF:

Administrative Action

Joseph A. Robbins, D.O.
License No. MB030699

CONSENT ORDER OF REINSTATEMENT
OF RESTRICTED LICENSURE

TO PRACTICE MEDICINE AND SURGERY :
IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Medical Examiners upon receipt of information from the Physicians' Health Program of the Medical Society of New Jersey ("PHP") that Joseph A. Robbins, D.O. ("Respondent") voluntarily admitted relapse into the abuse of Xanax, a schedule IV Controlled Dangerous Substance as defined in N.J.S.A. 24:21-6 and N.J.A.C. 8:65-10.2. Respondent admitted that for many years he has regularly obtained Xanax by writing prescriptions in the name of a family member and then filling the prescription for his own use. In cooperation with the PHP, Respondent entered into an in-patient substance abuse treatment program at Marworth in Waverly, Pennsylvania, on or about

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August 30, 2002. Respondent also voluntarily surrendered his license by consent order entered on September 26, 2002, at which time he returned his original CDS registration to the Board.

Respondent appeared before a Preliminary Evaluation Committee of the Board of Medical Examiners with David I. Canavan, M.D., Medical Director Emeritus of the Physicians' Health Program (P.H.P.), on January 22, 2003 seeking restoration of licensure. Dr. Robbins' petition was made with full endorsement of the PHP. Dr. Robbins testified that he began using Xanax because he was suffering from high anxiety. He continued to take Xanax because he felt better with the medication and felt he had the situation under control. Dr. Robbins testified that he has complied fully with the terms of the Consent Order entered on September 17, 2002.

Subsequent to September 2002, Dr. Robbins sought evaluation and treatment with Dr. Ricardo Fernandez, M.D. Dr. Fernandez supports Dr. Robbins' claim that he suffers from severe anxiety disorder. Dr. Fernandez provided a written evaluation of the Respondent in which he opines that Dr. Robbins is medically fit to return to practice.

The Board having considered the respondent's testimony and all relevant documentation submitted and finding the within Order adequately protective of the public health, safety and welfare,

IT IS on this 21st day of April , 2003

ORDERED that:

1. Joseph A. Robbins, D.O.'s license to practice medicine and surgery in the State of New Jersey is hereby **reinstated**.

2. Dr. Robbins will **comply** fully with the monitoring program **established** for him by the PHP. Such monitoring program shall **include** but not be limited to:

- a. Absolute **abstinence** from drugs and alcohol with the exception of **medication** prescribed by a treating physician for a documented medical condition with notification to the **medical** director of the PHP.
- b. **Participation** in psychotherapy to help him develop behavioral and cognitive approaches to managing his symptoms no **less** often than twice **per** month with a counselor approved by the Board. Respondent shall *cause* his counselor to provide the PHP with quarterly reports in **regard** to his attendance and progress in counseling.
- c. Attendance at support groups, including NA/AA at a frequency to **be** determined by the Medical Director of the PHP and shall provide **evidence** of attendance at such groups directly to the PHP on a form or in a manner as required by **the** Program.

- d. Random urine monitoring under the supervision of the PHP on a random, unannounced basis, at a frequency to be **determined** by the PHP, **but no** less than 1 time per **week**. All test results shall **be** provided in **the** first instance directly to the PHP and any positive **result** shall **be** reported immediately **by** the PHP to the **Executive** Director of **the** Board. Any failure by **respondent** to submit or provide a urine sample within twenty-four (24) hours of a request will be deemed **to** be an act of non-compliance with the terms of this order absent an excuse satisfactory **to** the PHP.
- e. Respondent shall **submit** to continued monitoring by the PHP, shall meet with the PHP on a face-to-face basis at least once a month, and shall cause the PHP to provide **quarterly** reports to the **Board** in regard to its monitoring of respondent as outlined **herein** including, but not **limited** to, urine testing, counseling and attendance at **support** groups. The PHP shall attach **to** its quarterly reports any and all **appropriate** reports and/or documentation concerning any of the monitoring aspects of the within program. Respondent agrees that the PHP shall advise the Board immediately in the event

it receives information or evidence of noncompliant
behavior.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

BY: William V. Harrer MD BCD
William V. Harrer, M.D., B.L.D.
President

I have read and understand
the above Order and I agree
to abide by its terms.

Joseph Robbins
Joseph Robbins, D.O.

Consent as to form:

David L. Canavan, M.D.
David L. Canavan, M.D.
Medical Director Emeritus
Physicians' Health Program